

## The Great Reset (January 7, 2024) – Small Group Questions

### Ask:

1. Share with the group some New Year's resolutions you have made. How did you do at following through with them?
2. Does a new year feel “new” to you? Does it give you hope, or does it feel like any other day?
3. Pastor Ryan challenged us to give up control. What areas of your life are the most challenging to relinquish control? Why is that?

### Read:

John 12:20-28 Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration <sup>21</sup> paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, “Sir, we want to meet Jesus.” <sup>22</sup> Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man<sup>[a]</sup> to enter into his glory. <sup>24</sup> I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. <sup>26</sup> Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me. <sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But this is the very reason I came! <sup>28</sup> Father, bring glory to your name.” Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, “I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again.”

1. What does Jesus’ heart and attitude in this passage teach us about control?
2. What is Jesus’ expectation of his followers regarding control in this passage?

*What Jesus is teaching is hard for people to grasp because he says if you want to save your life, let go. If you want to lose your life, keep trying to control everything. When we say less of me and more of God, or when we say not my will but your will, we are telling God to use us however he desires, and when we do that, he will take us places we never imagined. He will call us to accomplish things we never thought possible. He will bless our lives in ways we never asked or considered. Pastor Ryan*

3. One of the ways that we give up control is to die to our old identity. Share how you have died to some of your old ways of life. What was the process you had to go through to finally relinquish control? If comfortable, share where you still struggle to let go.

### Read:

Romans 12:1-2 And so, dear brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>2</sup> Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this

world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

James 4:13-16 Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." <sup>14</sup> How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. <sup>15</sup> What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup> Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

**Ask:**

1. How well do you do at living by the words, "If the Lord wants us to." How do you typically respond to the unexpected and unplanned? Does our reaction reveal where we are when it comes to the area of control?
2. If Christ truly controlled your calendar, what would change?

**Apply:**

1. What is one thing from this message that stood out to you the most?
2. Please share with your group a specific area of your life that you would not only like to let go of but want them to help hold you accountable.
3. This week, take a hard look at your calendar and see what needs to be moved around, canceled, or added so that you not only have more time to spend with the Lord but more time to say, "Here I am, Lord, send me."